IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH

CP-67-CR-0007558-2018

VS

:

TYREE MARCHE'LI BOWIE

(Hearing)

York, PA, Friday, November 5, 2021

Before the Honorable Gregory M. Snyder, Judge

APPEARANCES:

ERIN KRASKA, Esquire STEPHANIE LOMBARDO, Esquire Assistant District Attorneys For the Commonwealth

FARLEY HOLT, Esquire For the Defendant

ORDER

Before this Court for hearing on the

14:04:2421 Commonwealth's motion for protective order filed

14:04:3522 October 12, 2021, is the Commonwealth, ADAs Lombardo

14:04:4423 and Kraska, the defendant in the case, and his counsel

14:04:4824 of record, Attorney Farley Holt.

14:04:5425 We note that despite the contents of the

14:05:00 1 14:05:07 2 14:05:11 3 14:05:21 4 14:05:24 5 14:05:30 6 14:05:34 7 14:05:40 8 14:05:48 9 14:05:5210 14:05:5611 14:06:1012 14:06:1413 14:06:2014 14:06:2415 14:06:33 16 14:06:3617 14:06:41 18 14:06:4819 14:06:5120 14:06:5521

14:07:0122

14:07:0423

14:07:0524

14:07:0925

order specifically directed at third parties regarding the matter at hand, none of them have showed up and no one purporting to represent them have shown up. While we are somewhat surprised by that, they are not under order to show up but were invited to appear with the understanding that the Court would entertain any evidence or argument they wished to make with regard to the Court's issuance of the protective order.

We note that our protective order in this case was issued pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 573(f) which reads, upon a sufficient showing, the Court may at any time order the discovery or inspection be denied, restricted or deferred or make such other order as is appropriate regarding discovery materials. Upon motion of any party, the Court may permit the showing to be made in whole or in part in the form of a written statement to be inspected by the Court in camera. If the Court enters an order granting relief following a showing in camera, the entire text of the statement shall be sealed and preserved in the records of the court to be made available to the appellate courts in the event of an appeal.

Upon this Court's receipt of the motion seeking the protective order, we reviewed the discovery

14:07:20 1 14:07:25 2 14:07:29 3 14:07:34 4 14:07:42 5 14:07:50 6 14:07:53 7 14:07:59 8 14:08:02 9 14:08:07 10 14:08:1011 14:08:1612 14:08:3313 14:08:48 14 14:08:5715 14:09:03 16 14:09:1017 14:09:17 18 14:09:22 19 14:09:2620 14:09:3221 14:09:3522 14:09:4223

14:09:4724

14:09:5925

materials that were the subject of that motion, determined that there was, based upon that review and the information set forth in the motion, sufficient showing for the Court to issue its order. We did so.

We do know that there's nothing in that rule and there is no legal authority to stand for the proposition that an evidentiary hearing or other court proceeding prior to the Court's consideration and issuance of the protective order is required. In fact, just the contrary is the case.

We note specifically the Superior Court case from 2017 in Commonwealth v. Sellers at 169 A.3d 43. The relevant or pertinent part of that opinion clearly indicates that nothing in the rule in question requires any evidentiary hearing or other opportunity to be heard prior to the issuance of a protective order as long as a sufficient showing for good cause to issue the order can be ascertained by the Court in camera. We so ascertained.

The information in question is materials obtained through the course of discovery in this pending criminal case. Discovery materials are subject to protective orders not only in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania but at the federal level as well.

The information sought to be protected

is comprised of various records of York County 14:10:02 1 Children, Youth & Families and contain what we would 14:10:08 2 call categorically confidential information regarding 14:10:18 3 14:10:27 4 that agency's investigation into alleged indidences of 14:10:35 5 child abuse and also regarding the subject dhild's 14:10:43 6 medical information. 14:10:46 7 We also note that it is patently clear 14:10:49 8 to this Court and manifest that medical information is confidential under Pennsylvania constitution. 14:10:56 9 People 14:11:07 10 have a right to privacy, which includes the 14:11:1211 confidentiality of their medical records. 14:11:30 12 Therefore, after further consideration 14:11:3713 and review, we are satisfied that the Court acted 14:11:42 14 appropriately in issuing the protective order of 14:11:47 15 October 12, 2021. That order remains in full force and effect. 14:11:5416 14:11:5617 Frankly, it was the Court's hope that 14:12:0018 the individuals who the Commonwealth indicates have 14:12:0219 been disseminating this confidential discovery material were present so that we could make sure they understood 14:12:1020 the consequences of their violating this protective 14:12:1321 14:12:2422 order. Again, they weren't required to be here. 14:12:2923 wish they were here. 14:12:3924 We also tell Mr. Holt and the

Commonwealth that if there are any modifications to the

14:12:4625

protective order that they believe are appropriate or necessary, they should bring those to the Court's attention by appropriate means and we will certainly address them as soon as possible.

* * *

bln 11/05/2021